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CD NO.

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REPORT NO.

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MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE PROGRESSES;
SOME KOLLEKTORES CRITICIZED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~ Thursday, October, No 160, 14 Aug 49

The Ministry of Agriculture USSR has reported that during the first 6 months of 1949, MTSS completed 18 percent more field work than in the same period of 1948. At the same time, MTSS conserved 15 trainloads of fuel.

MTSs of Krasnodar Krai reduced fuel consumption by two kilograms per hectare of plowed soil, as compared with last year. MTSs of Altay, Chkalov, Saratov, Kuybyshev, Tambov, Penza, Crimea, Omsk, and other oblasts are participating in the campaign for fuel conservation.

RURAL ESTONIA SEES FIRST COMBINES -- Pravda, No 221, 9 Aug 49

Estonian agriculture is rapidly becoming mechanized. Rural Estonia received a great number of tractors this year. Harvesting machines have been in the fields since the beginning of harvest. Combines, never before seen in rural Estonia, are harvesting great quantities of kolkhoz grain. Estonia has received hundreds of tractors in the last few years from industrial centers. There are now 39 MTBs in Estonia.

GEORGIA GETS REGIONAL MACHINERY-TESTING STATION -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 158,
13 Aug 49

The Ministry of Agriculture USSR has organized a state regional machinery-testing station in the Georgian SSR. The station will run tests of machines to used in agriculture in the Transcaucasus region.

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MEADOW RECLAMATION STATIONS BEING EQUIPPED -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 100, 9 Aug 49

The Ministry of Agriculture this year has organized for the first time meadow reclamation stations (lugomeliorativnyy stantsii) in Moscow, Kalinin, Leningrad, Novgorod, and other oblasts of the RSFSR, and in the Ukraine and Belorussia.

Plows for plowing in marshy and bushy land, bush cutters, and heavy-duty S-80 tractors are now arriving at the newly created stations. The stations will also be equipped with rooters, disked drainage-ditch machines, graders, and excavators.

RECLAMATION WORK DEVELOPS IN ESTONIA -- Sovetskaya Estoniya, No 191, 14 Aug 49

The first machine-reclamation station in the Estonian SSR was established in Yarvamaa. The station is equipped with S-80 and NATI tractors, excavators, heavy bog plows, and disk harrows. New machines are soon expected to arrive, including bulldozers, trench diggers, drainage machinery, and pump dredges. The station began to operate in Jun 1949.

UZBEK CANAL GETS NEW INSTALLATION -- Pravda Vostoka, No 158, 12 Aug 49

A large head installation has been finished on the canal imeni Akhunbabayev now under construction in Uzbekistan. The new installation, calculated to handle a flow of 50 cubic meters of water per second, will assure a normal flow of water from the Syr-Dar'ya River. After reconstruction of the canal and completion of development works, the head installation will permit the irrigation of an additional 17,000 hectares in Namangan Oblast and will prevent the filling in of the canal. In the construction of the installation, 230,000 cubic meters of earth were moved and 4,700 cubic meters of concrete were poured.

LARGE SETTLING TANK BEGUN IN STALINABAD -- Trud, No 190, 13 Aug 49

Construction has begun on a large settling basin in Vakhsh, Stalinabad Oblast. The basin will have a capacity of more than one million cubic meters of water. Kolkhoz workers of Kaganovichabadskiy and Dzhalikul'skiy rayons are taking part in the construction. The basin will relieve the kolkhozes of these rayons almost completely of the necessity of cleaning out the irrigation system every year.

ESTONIAN KOLKHOZES EXPAND -- Pravda, No 226, 14 Aug 49

Estonian peasants have organized about 3,000 farm artels. The new kolkhozes purchased many thousand tons of fertilizer from the state in the spring and acquired 80 trucks and about 400 harvesting machines by the beginning of the harvesting season. Republic organizations have received from kolkhozes over 100 new applications for agricultural machinery and equipment for rural electric power plants under construction.

The demand for consumers' goods has grown considerably. Kolkhoz farmers purchased about 2,000 motorcycles, over 8,000 bicycles and other articles, in the current year. During the first 6 months, more than 2 million rubles' worth of books were sold.

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KHABAROVSK KOLKHOZES OBTAIN AUTOS -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 170, 28 Jul 49

A consignment of GAZ-MM automobiles, made by the Ul'yanovsk Plant, has arrived in Khabarovsk and will be sent to stores of the kray's consumers' cooperative. Eight of them will be sold to kolkhozes of the Jewish Autonomous Oblast and 13 will be sent to agricultural artels in the rayons subordinate to the kray. The remainder will be sold to kolkhozes of Nizhne-Amur and Kamchatka oblasts. An additional 25 automobiles of the same make are expected soon.

UZBEK KOLKHOZ CONSTRUCTION MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS (Editorial) -- Pravda Vostoka, No 156, 9 Aug 49

The appearance of Uzbek kolkhoz villages is changing from year to year because of the increased wealth of kolkhozes and increased culture of kolkhoz workers. Kolkhoz workers want to live in new houses which meet their demands and their cultural level. They want clubs, movies, hospitals, and bath houses. Leading kolkhozes have long constructed their villages on a single architectural plan. Living quarters, new centers, gardens, and plazas are all constructed according to plan.

The Tenth Congress of the KP(b) Uzbekistan stated in its decisions that "the most serious attention must be devoted to the matter of regular construction and landscaping of kolkhoz villages so that each kolkhoz village will have a club or reading hut, bath house, dispensary with a maternity section, nursery, kindergarden, administration building, and model industrial buildings within the next 3-4 years, and so that the mass of kolkhoz workers will have houses which answer the socialist character of the kolkhoz village within the next 6-7 years."

Many Uzbek kolkhozes, on their own initiative, have set about the planned construction of their villages since the Tenth Congress. However, this matter is not being given enough attention throughout the republic as a whole. The planning group of the Administration of Land Organization and Crop Rotation, Ministry of Agriculture, handles the planning of kolkhoz villages. This group has only 18 workers. This is naturally not enough to guarantee the amount of planning operations. Of the 6,644 kolkhozes in Uzbekistan, 1,180 have been furnished with proposed plans. The planning group has not even had time to furnish colonizing kolkhozes with plans. But, Bayautskiy massif, and Golodnaya Steppe are practically the only regions whose kolkhozes have received or are receiving plans.

The matter of drawing up designs for kolkhoz dormitories and houses is in no better shape. Colonizing kolkhozes are merely given standard designs which results in the poor appearance of kolkhoz villages. The remaining kolkhozes must order their own designs and there is no architectural organization the republic designated for this purpose.

It is about time to create a special administration which would direct capital construction in kolkhozes. An architectural organization should be set up under this administration. At the same time, all our architects should be encouraged to take active part in discussing and drawing up the best designs for kolkhoz buildings.

IDLENESS WIDESPREAD ON ANDIZHAN KOLKHOZES -- Stalinskoye Znaniya, No 146, 27 Jul 49

The average work rate of one able-bodied kolkhoz worker in Andizhan Oblast has increased from 255 work days in 1945 to 275 in 1948. During this period, the cotton yield per hectare has increased 8 centners per hectare and the monetary income of kolkhozes has increased two times. These achievements could be even greater if all kolkhoz workers would work.

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Between 1 January and 15 May, the first agricultural work period, 8,739 kolkhoz workers in the oblast did not work the minimum of 30 work days. Investigations have shown that these figures, given by the oblast agricultural administration, greatly underestimate the facts. For example, in Voroshilovskiy Rayon, 606 workers, not the reported 300, have not worked the minimum number of work days. The investigation showed too that in Leninskiy Rayon, 609 workers, instead of the reported 561, did not fulfill the minimum. In Andizhan, the number reached 1,282 workers.

Kolkhoz administrators must, where necessary, make monthly investigations on the participation of all workers. This requirement is almost never met, however, and the Statute of Agricultural Artels is being carried out on a very low level.

ANDIZHAN KOLKHOZES VIOLATE LAWS -- Stalinskoye Znanya, No 148, 30 Jul 49

A recent conference of leading agriculturists of Andizhan Oblast, Uzbek SSR, considered the problem of violations of the Statute of Agricultural Artels. It was pointed out that many kolkhozes have not decreased the number of administrative workers, that the debts of the oblast's kolkhozes total almost 28 million rubles, while debts incurred by obtaining advances in payments amount to 130 million rubles. There are still many cases of violation of the democratic bases of kolkhoz administration. Auditing commissions, obligated to investigate kolkhoz finances every quarter, have not been carrying out this work on schedule. Squandering of public land still occurs in many kolkhozes. Both kolkhoz workers and some enterprises and organizations are making illegal use of public lands. Land registers and records are not being maintained accurately.

Rakhimov, Minister of Agriculture Uzbek SSR, stated that the serious violations of the agricultural statute is the result of laxness and lack of discipline in the operations of the oblast agricultural administration and rayon agricultural departments. The conference drew up measures designed to eliminate these errors in the immediate future.

The conference also heard reports on the progress of cotton cultivation, which is at a very low level in the oblast. It was pointed out that the overwhelming majority of men are not working in the cotton fields, and the demand for high-quality work is not being met. Tractors are also not being used to capacity.

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